

Ashley Blanchard
217 Leonard Rd
Stafford Springs, CT 06076

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Raised Bill No. 327
AN ACT CONCERNING NURSING HOMES

Good afternoon members of the Human Services Committee. My name is Ashley Blanchard and I am testifying on behalf of Raised Bill No. 327 which mandates that a study of nursing homes be conducted to determine if they are sufficient in numbers and services to meet long-term care needs. As the state continues to grow and age, Connecticut must be able to meet the increased healthcare needs of its residents. With 14.2 percent of residents over the age of 65 and 27.1 percent over the age of 55, it is essential that we can ensure appropriate and substantial care for our elderly. This also should be done not just by guaranteeing that there will be enough nursing homes to meet the growing number of Connecticut elderly residents, but by measuring the quality of services that these facilities provide as well. I support this bill because I want Connecticut to continue to grow and keep up with the developing needs of its citizens.

Deciding to place your loved one in a nursing facility can be a painful experience that I can relate to. Due to my great grandmother's slow and painful struggle with Alzheimer's disease, there came a time when my family was unable to meet her needs, and she was placed in a nursing home where she eventually passed. Knowing that she was well cared for and her needs appropriately met helped ease the heavy burden that my family carried throughout watching her struggle. I know of many individuals however who have not had the same luck in finding a sufficient enough nursing home for their loved one. I have also met individuals who believed their loved one was being well cared for, only to realize too late that an insufficient number of staff, inadequate resources, or a general lack of care has resulted in that person's suffering- a completely avoidable suffering.

Raised Bill 327 will ensure that research is being conducted on the adequacy of services offered by nursing homes as well as generate recommendations for addressing identified gaps and improving access to services. With the passage of this bill, families can feel a sense of relief in a

potentially heartbreaking period of their lives that their state has done all they can to ensure suitable and quality care for all. Thank you and I urge you again to support R.B. 327.

Sincerely,

Ashley Blanchard, BSW
MSW Student
University of Connecticut School of Social Work